White Creek Octr. 16th 1780 —

Dr. Governor

We have been Allarmed here in a very Serious Nature on the 10th Instant I Received an Express from Capt. Sherwood Commanding at Fort Ann that the Evening before his Scout had Discovered the Enemys path from South Bay & that they Imagined they most be in Number above three hundred — and Desired assistance I Imedeatly Ordred out the Regiment. but that Night Sent out a scout To fort Ann — Same Night Received an Express from Coll. H Livingston that fort ann was attacked — Next Morning I marched with all the Men I Could Collect. and did not know whither to march towards fort ann or fort Edward as I had Received another Express that a Large body of the Enemy had Landed at ~~South~~ East bay. upon which I Imedeatly Called a Council I being favoured with the assistance of major McCracken and Doctor Williams who is always Ready and willing for the public good both with Advice and other assistance — when it was agreed that we Should March for the Relief of fort ann by the way of Skeinsborough. but on our March herd of the Surrender of fort Ann without firing A gunn and that the Enemy was bending their Course Towards fort Edward We Imedeatly turned & Marched to fort Edward which we Accomplished, on Thursday Next day Marched ~~f~~ for fort George and Buried the Dead, (to Witt) One Capt. Two Ensigns, and 15 Men. The Enemy Burnt the fort and left it the day before, we Returnd ~~the~~ to Fort Edward the same Evening and Next Morning Returnd home, where I had not been One hour till I Recd. A letter from Dr. Williams Informing me, that fortytwo Armd. men had Crossd Batten Kiln the Night before, Nine Miles West of White Creek going into the West part of Cambridge — Likeways a Small party has gon thro this Town to the north ward — on friday Night Last, and the night before, Two Barns & One Mill was Burnt, about Six Miles East of Dr. Williams's House, So that notwithstanding, the Main Body are gone back yet it is Evident that small parties are lurking about us in Order to Burn our buildings I have Ordered the Men to keep imbodied. and Keep out Scouts and Guards, to keep them as much as Possable from Doing Damage Last night Dr. Williams favoured me with a letter Sent him from Coll. Livingston requesting I should send Some men to Fort Edward, in order to keep that Garrison as his men will leave that this day, but Its Impossable for me to send any. as my Men are all in Confusion, Some Gone of with their families, Three Districts are Intirely Routed, and nearly the fourth. So that I have none left but Granvill, which are in Imediate Danger & White & black Creek, who are Exposd. I shall Endeavour to keep out Scouting Parties as long as I can. but incase we Can gett no Assistance in a few days. I expect We shall all move off, as we are Informed by good Authority that the Enemy Intend, to Visit us Soon,

I recd. your Orders of the Second Instant Yesterday but its Impossable to Raise any Men, as the best of our Young Men are nearly gone with the Forts. George & Ann and was I to Class the few that remains, for the Number Demanded by your Orders, I should scarce have a man to Act in the Defensive And Very Probably they would sooner move out of the County than to be at the Expence, This seems to be the Opinion of the Leading men amongst us. Its generally Conjectured that our Secret Enemies will Endeavour, to Imbody. with those who are Come down from Canada, In the Interiour parts. and So take the Advantage of burning in their way Back. so that we are Continually on our Guard & Incase we move from here, I do not Imagine, any Stand will be made this Side Albany. There are parties Kept on Guard by day, and Scouts in the woods and by night I kep the roads Guarded. I Sent out Last night three parties to Search Dissafected houses but to No purpose- However I Shall Strain every Nerve by Exertion to protect the people and kep them from moving- but Unless your Excellency Devise ways and Means for our protection we Cannot Stay here Long- as n place of Defence now remains but fort Edward- if Some Block houses is not bu r a flying Camp; kept. I Shall only be on the Defence till I have your Excellen answer; which I beg may be soon. I am unable to Explain our Distress at present I have but one Whig family between me and the frontiers and I m Loath to move for making it General & I have Ordred a beef to be killed and has got some flower for the Men and keeps them Imbodied to prevent a Surprize. In writing of this I am informed that the Last two night Men was h Cutting of wood ~~and~~ out of wood Creek between fort Ann and Skeens borough which plainly Indicates that the Enemy has not left us- Capt. Johnston will be able to Inform your Excellency of Several particulars that I have n now time to mention wherefore I refer to him & I am with the Greatest

Esteem your Excellencys

Very obedient & Humble

Servant

Alexr. Webster

To His Excellency Governor Clinton

Ms. Ch. C. 6. 12
RW1090